MARVI AND HISTORICAL TRUST

Address: 220 N. Bentalou Street Zip Code: 21223-1423 USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore West Property Owner: Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City Tax Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 0000 Tax Map Number: Project: West Baltimore MARC Station Project Agency: Agency Prepared By: RK&K, LLP	Account ID 20 Maryland T Oate Prepared torical News s made at: B: Listorical Solution And Account ID 20 Account ID Acco	Baltimor Number: Gransit Adm d: 5/ spapers Data altimore Ciciety) Eligibilit Dl	215700 ninistration /1/2012 tabase, schity Archive	n nool states,	ded
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The one-, two-, and three-story Bentalou Elementary School has austere, mid-twentiet	lroad tracks igton Street)	to the nort	h, and light t and south	nt indu h. Tw	0
displaying references to International Style characteristics, including flat surfaces and has an estimated 26 classrooms, as well as an auditorium, cafeteria, gymnasium, and li located at the east end of the property, the irregular plan building has an east-facing fa concrete. The building is of concrete block construction, clad with red brick. The flat	horizontal babrary. Orien cade. The fo	ands of win nted on an e oundation is	ndows. The east-west a s most like	ne scho axis an ely	d
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW					
Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended >					
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Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

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and has stainless steel coping.

The primary entrance is located at the south end of the asymmetrical, three-story façade within a two-story tall vestibule with a flat roof clad with bituminous material and bordered with stainless steel coping. Located at the first-story level, the entrance is sheltered by its own flat, concrete, overhanging roof with stainless steel coping. This roof is supported by brick clad piers. The entrance consists of three sets of metal and glass double doors, each with a fixed transom above; the doors' glass panels are each protected by a metal grill. The entrance ceiling has modern lighting. The entrance is accessed by concrete steps and landing connecting to a concrete pedestrian walkway leading to the sidewalk. At the second-floor level of this vestibule is a cluster of fifteen steel-sash windows consisting of a row of taller awning windows flanked by a row of hopper windows above and below. Together, the windows share one limestone sill. Except where the differences are duly noted, all other windows on this building are the same. The north section of the façade has three sets of twelve window sashes facing into the first-floor cafeteria, with each set divided by a metal pilaster. Located to the north is a single set of windows originally with nine window sashes; one sash was replaced with a fixed sash, and two others now have a metal vented opening. All first-floor façade windows are protected by security grills, angled to accommodate the awning sashes. The wall above these windows is a large expanse of brick cladding where the auditorium is located. A masonry cornerstone with the date "1960" is located at the south end of the façade. Nonoriginal white letters spell out the current name of the school, "Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School #150," directly to the north of the primary entrance.

From the east end of the façade, the building's exterior continues west, leading to a north-facing elevation. This elevation's east section has a small concrete loading dock with two single metal doors. The west section has a one-story wing with a flat roof and stainless steel coping; at its north elevation is a set of three double-hung, steel- sash windows flanked by paired windows of the same material and type. One of the paired windows has a flush, metal, security grill.

The building continues south, leading to the gymnasium's west-facing, tall one-story elevation. A recently installed single metal door is accessible by a concrete handicap-accessible ramp with metal handrails. This elevation also has four sets of windows, each with fifteen sashes, with alternating rows of awnings and what appear to be fixed sashes.

The building then continues west, leading to a north-facing, two-story elevation with classrooms. This elevation's first floor is flanked on one side by a single metal door with a small single light, and on the other side by double metal and glass doors sheltered by a flat concrete roof with stainless steel coping. Each entrance has transoms above, and is accessed by granite steps and landing. The lights of the double doors are protected by metal security grills. Above this entrance is a second-story window with three sashes, including two that have awnings; this window has a flush, metal, security grill. Each story has a nearly continuous row of windows made up of rectangular sets of nine sashes; the sets are separated by metal pilasters. Flush, metal, security grills protect the windows at the second-floor. This elevation also has concrete steps and landing (with large black aggregates) accessing what appears to be remnants of a drinking fountain.

The building then continues south, leading to a west-facing, two-story elevation with classrooms. This elevation consists of an entrance at the south end identical to the double-door entrance at the previous elevation. This entrance connects to a concrete pedestrian walkway. The windows on this elevation also match those at the previous elevation, including the one located at the second-story above the entrance. On this elevation, however, the windows' flush, metal, security grills are located on the first floor. The drinking fountain remnant is also identical to the one at the previous elevation.

The building then continues east, leading to a symmetrical, south-facing, two-story elevation. It consists of an entrance similar to those at the two previous elevations. The entrance on this elevation, however, also has brick supports flanking the entrance; the second-floor window above it is similar to those at the two previous elevations, except this one has double the number of sashes.

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This entrance connects to a concrete pedestrian walkway.

The building then continues north, leading to an east-facing, two-story elevation with classrooms. This elevation has no door openings. Both stories have the same continuous rows of windows as mentioned above for the other classroom elevations. Flush, metal, security grills protects the windows at the first floor.

The building then continues east, leading to a south-facing, two- and three-story elevation. This elevation has two entrances at the two-story section with classrooms. One entrance has a single metal and glass door with transoms and side lights; all the lights are protected by metal grills. The entrance's flat, concrete roof has stainless steel coping and brick supports. Granite steps and landing lead up to the entrance. This entrance faces directly onto a lawn area enclosed by a low chain link fence with gates. The other entrance at the two-story section has metal, double doors with lights protected by metal grills; above each door is a transom, and below is a granite threshold. The entrance is sheltered by a concrete roof with stainless steel coping, and faces onto a concrete paved area flanked by chain link fencing. The paved area leads to a set of concrete stairs with metal handrails going down to the first- floor of the elevation's three-story section (located adjacent to the façade); this three-story section consists of classrooms, school office, and possibly the library. This first-floor has a metal, double door entrance surrounded by a wall of what appear to be fixed window sashes; most of the sashes are protected by flat, metal security grills. Two other entrances consist of another set of metal, double doors, as well as a single door opening. Most of this entire elevation has the same continuous rows of windows as mentioned at the other classroom elevations; the third-story windows, however, are sheltered by an open metal awning. All of the first-story windows have flush, metal, security grills, while some at the upper floors also have them. At the recessed east end of this elevation are two sets of windows with six sashes each, located at the second- and third-floor levels; awning sashes are flanked at the top and bottom by hoppers. A metal flagpole is mounted directly to the east of these windows, using two streamlined brackets.

The Bentalou Recreation Center is located directly to the north of the school. This tall one-story building has no architectural style. It is connected to the school by an open walkway sheltered by a flat roof with stainless steel coping. Railings made of metal grill panels are mounted on top of this roof. Oriented on an east-west axis, this irregular plan building has an east-facing asymmetrical façade. The building likely has a concrete foundation and concrete block construction. The lower sections of the exterior walls are clad with dark red brick, while the upper portions have stucco cladding. The flat roof is covered with bituminous material and is bordered by wide, stainless steel coping. The primary entrance is located at a projecting portion of the façade. Its metal and glass, double doors have fixed transoms above; metal security grills cover all the glass. Sheltered by the principal roof, the entrance is accessible by concrete steps flanked by integrated brick planters with bushes. The entrance leads to a concrete pedestrian walkway connected to the sidewalk. The façade windows alternate between those installed at a diagonal angle (sloped back along the upper section of the exterior walls) and tall, vertical, multi-sash windows with concrete sills and mounted in recessed openings. All windows appear to have fixed vinyl-sashes with metal security grills. A masonry cornerstone with the date "1970" is located at the south end of the façade. A south facing wall at the façade has metal letters spelling "Bentalou Recreation Center" and a metal seal for the "Department of Parks and Recreation, City of Baltimore." The north and south elevations have the same combination of windows located at the façade. The north elevation also has metal security bars at the roofline. The south elevation has two sets of double doors, both with security grills, including one located underneath the walkway mentioned above. The west (rear) elevation has a set of double doors with metal security grills. A handicapped-accessible ramp with metal handrails is located directly adjacent to this elevation. Security lights are mounted on all sides of the building.

Both buildings are setback from the street. Most of the front of the property consists of lawns, each surrounded by low, metal, chain-link fences. Within the lawns are a few young trees. There is an asphalt- and concrete-paved driveway located to the south of the school building, connecting to Bentalou Street via a concrete apron. N. Bentalou Street comes to a dead end, but then continues north and bends to the west onto an asphalt-paved parking area at the back of the property. The schoolyard, also at the

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rear, consists mainly of a large expanse of lawn, in addition to playground areas, a basketball court, and 1990s playground equipment. A small, wooded area borders the southwest end of the property. Concrete steps with metal handrails are located at the south end of the property, leading down to a sloped concrete paved pedestrian path and ultimately to the alley behind a set of rowhouses on W. Lexington Street.

Historic Context

By time Bentalou Elementary School was constructed in 1960, Baltimore City had already experienced a dramatic shift in racial demographics, particularly in areas such as West Baltimore. Before 1900, none of the neighborhoods were predominantly African-American. Their population was instead spread throughout the city, with no ward having more than one-third African-Americans. The number of black residents in Baltimore increased starting in the early twentieth century when they escaped the poverty and Jim Crow politics of the rural south, arriving in Baltimore to seek a better life through employment in the city's thriving industries. This influx changed the racial composition of Baltimore neighborhoods. The black population continued to increase, and between 1950 and 1960 almost doubled, while many white families moved away from the city and into the suburbs. Originally African-Americans primarily lived northwest and northeast of downtown Baltimore, but as their population number increased, many moved into previously white neighborhoods such as West Baltimore. This growing population drove the need for new schools in Baltimore City by the late 1950s. A growing number of children were also due to the post-World War II "baby boom" once soldiers returned home, settled down, and established families postponed due to the war. This overcrowding forced over 12,000 students to attend classes part-time. Schools like Bentalou were built to alleviate these problems.

Bentalou Elementary School was part of the Baltimore City Department of Education School Board's 32 million dollar building program. Over a three-year period beginning in 1960, twenty new schools and nearly ten additions to existing schools were planned. Bentalou was to be one of five new schools and three additions ready in 1960 and 1961, to provide a total of 328 classrooms, and other amenities such as gymnasiums, auditoriums, and cafeterias, for about 9,800 students. Other schools built in 1960 were Patterson High School on N. Kane Street, Venable Junior High School at 34th and Frisby streets, and Thomas G. Hayes Elementary School at Central Avenue and Monument Street. In June 1962, eleven new elementary schools were being planned, mostly in African-American neighborhoods.

Specific planning for Bentalou Elementary School started in 1958 when the School Board announced construction of a new elementary school to house 940 students on the Bentalou Park site located at Bentalou and Saratoga Streets (the 1952 Sanborn Company fire insurance map, however, shows a one-story elementary school (#48A) located on this property). Funds were already available to begin construction for the new school. The Baltimore City Park Board gave permission for this new use; however, the site would continue to be for recreational use, after school hours. Plans were also going to call for creating fencing to the northwest along the Pennsylvania Railroad-owned tracks, for a safer environment. Bentalou Elementary School was built by Philip Vizzini and Son, Inc., who had put in a low bid of \$949,440. The architect name is currently not known. The building displays a design vocabulary that was nearly ubiquitous for school buildings of its era in Maryland. Numerous buildings that are nearly identical are found throughout the state. While it is not known if stock plans existed, few deviations from this general stylistic appearance exist during this timeframe. The 26 classroom school was completed in 1960 for an African-American student population in a working-class neighborhood, with Rosalee McGuire acting as its first principal. The school originally served from kindergarten to sixth grade.

Many American schools in the decades after World War II, from about the 1950s to the early 1960s, had austere, mid-twentieth century modern design elements, a dramatic difference from their predecessors, which were generally monumental buildings, designed in such ornamental architectural styles as Gothic Revival, Classical Revival, and Art Deco. Stone and brick were common building materials. Post-war schools took advantage of the technological advancements in building materials made

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during the war. These buildings continued to use brick, but usually as a cladding material on concrete-based construction. School design was more streamlined and austere with minimal ornamentation. Many schools were one-story tall, particularly in suburban neighborhoods, taking advantage of the greater availability of land. Urban areas, on the other hand were often designed with two-stories, to account for less available space. These mid-twentieth century schools had larger expanses of metal-sash (typically aluminum or steel) windows, providing better ventilation and lighting. Lighting and its relationship with extensive use of glass was an important element of design for mid-twentieth century architects. Pedestrian entrances were often sheltered by flat roofs, another characteristic of modern styles. Often the most distinctive character-defining feature of the façade are metal letters spelling out the name of the school; this was often the only ornamental feature and great care was given to selecting a modern font. In addition, desks and chairs traditionally nailed down to the floors were now movable, thus allowing for greater flexibility in the learning environment. The importance of outdoor recreation activities could be seen with large areas for playgrounds, baseball fields, basketball courts, and vast lawn areas.

Although Bentalou Elementary School opened with an entirely African-American student population, desegregation had already taken place in the Baltimore City school system. This nationwide process started in May 1954 when the United States (U.S.) Supreme Court reversed the doctrine of "separate but equal" with their history-making Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas ruling. The court found that children of segregated schools were deprived of equal protection under the law guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (that grants citizenship to everyone born in the U.S. with protected civil and political rights). The previously segregated Baltimore City school system instituted an open door "free choice" policy, which meant children were not required to attend any particular school, but instead could choose where they were to attend, except into districted schools and some special programs. School racial populations did not dramatically change, due to this loose approach. In addition, new schools like Bentalou were often constructed within racially homogeneous areas, so by default did not encourage desegregation. Of the 29 schools constructed between 1955 and 1961, twelve were predominantly black with an equal number predominantly white; only five schools could be considered integrated. By 1961, only 31 of the 146 Baltimore City elementary schools showed any evidence of desegregation.

In 1974, the Baltimore City School Board introduced a massive desegregation plan in a school system that was seventy percent African-American. The plan was the result of a U.S. District Court-ordered desegregation mandate from the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW). The court found the Baltimore City school system, in addition to the schools in 84 other school districts in the country, were still substantially disproportionate in their racial composition. Noncompliance would have meant losing \$23 million in federal funding for Baltimore City. The court had defined a racially disproportionate school to be one in which a 20 percent disproportion exists between the percentage of local minority pupils in the schools, and the percentage in the entire school district.

Baltimore's plan would move students to neighboring schools, although it would keep elementary school children within a one-mile radius from their homes, thus not require bussing for them. Eleven pairs were made out of 27 elementary schools. Bentalou Elementary School, with over 99 percent African-American students, was partnered with Samuel F. B. Morse School #98 with 96 percent white students and located in the Carrollton Ridge neighborhood located to the south. Students from pre-kindergarten to third grade were enrolled at Bentalou, while grades up to sixth were taken to the school in Carrollton Ridge. Teachers were also transferred between schools to enhance integration. The movement was initially not successful, meeting resistance. Protests included white parents organizing "Freedom Day" on June 11, 1974, keeping their children from Baltimore City schools that day. The boycott was most felt at Samuel F. B. Morse where ninety-six percent of the students were absent. Boycotting started again in Fall 1974, the first school year the pairing was in effect. A month after the school term started, only 82 of 345 white pupils arrived at Bentalou. The school should have had a total of 782 students. The number of white students, however, continued to increase as the months went by. Reluctance subsided even more by the second semester when a shuttle bus began operating between the Bentalou and Samuel F. B. Morse school areas. Ultimately many of the parents of former Samuel F. B. Morse students were

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happier with Bentalou, a newer school with better amenities. Integration efforts appear to have been successful, although today the Bentalou student population is nearly 100 percent African-American.

The 7,000 square foot Bentalou Recreation Center was dedicated in 1971. The building continued the property's recreation usage designated by the Baltimore City Park Board when Bentalou Elementary School was being planned. The recreation center was designed by Nelson-Salabes, Inc., architects, and Jack Daft and Associates, Inc., land planners and landscape architects. The building was meant to serve the recreation and artistic needs of the community. The new building included a large multi-purpose room, game room, kitchen, meeting room, arts and crafts room, and office space. The recreation center was linked to the school via a courtyard featuring a "fluidics" fountain created Baltimore artists Richard and Robert Human. The fountain has been removed. The school's gymnasium was and continues to be utilized by the recreation center.

The property is still an elementary school with an adjacent recreation center. Since 2009, the school has been called the Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School, renamed after a popular Bentalou Elementary School principal who served the school for 35 years, starting as a teacher in 1974. The school currently teaches pre-kindergarten to fifth grade students, and is located within a residential neighborhood with 1920s rowhouses. Light industrial buildings and structures stand to the south and primarily to the west of the school. Amtrak's Northeast Corridor rail alignment (formerly the Philadelphia, Baltimore & Washington Railroad) runs diagonally directly to the northwest of the school, with the West Baltimore MARC Station and its associated parking lot located nearby to the north.

The 1960 school building itself has not changed significantly, retaining its original architectural design and form, as well as material and features such as red brick-clad walls; steel hopper, awning, and fixed windows; metal doors; and original entrances sheltered by flat roofs. The interior floor plans, cafeteria, gymnasium, auditorium, and vestibule also retain their original character and materials. The most notable change to the building is the removal of the original and character-defining "Bentalou Elementary School" signage at the façade which has been replaced by the current school name. In addition, a handicapped-accessible entrance into the gymnasium was added at the rear of the building. The property's layout also remains largely unchanged, except for the addition of the Bentalou Recreation Center building, and more recent playground equipment installed on a former parking lot at the rear of the school, which alters the setting.

Significance Evaluation

Bentalou Elementary School was evaluated for significance under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria A, B, and C, using the guidelines set forth in the National Register Bulletin "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation." The property was not evaluated for eligibility under Criterion D as part of this assessment. Previous determinations of eligibility of school buildings were also consulted to inform this assessment; most notably, the nearby Edmondson-Westside High School, which has a similar design aesthetic, was determined not eligible as documented on a Short Form for Ineligible Properties in August 4, 2005.

Bentalou Elementary School was constructed during a sensitive time of school desegregation occurring throughout the country, including Baltimore City. When Bentalou was constructed in 1960, desegregation measures resulting from Brown vs. Board of Education had already been implemented; however, due to the "free choice" option and other issues, desegregation did not really take off so Bentalou's entire student body was almost entirely African-American. Bentalou again played a part in desegregation efforts in 1974 through a HEW mandate to selected school systems nationwide. As with other Baltimore City elementary schools that had been racially paired, there was parental opposition, especially in the beginning. Although these integration efforts appeared to eventually work at the time for schools like Bentalou, many schools like it are today not racially mixed. Many schools in the nation, particularly in urban areas, experienced similar integration issues. In addition, Bentalou was constructed at a time

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when Baltimore City needed to accommodate a fast growing African-American population in areas such as West Baltimore, which included addressing the impacts of post-World War II baby boomers. Bentalou was one of many schools constructed when the Baltimore City School District implemented an extensive building program to accommodate this population growth, again a similar issue facing urban areas nationwide. However, research does not support the argument that the evaluated property had a specific significant influence or association to these historic trends. Therefore, Bentalou Elementary School is not eligible under Criterion A.

Research has not shown that the property is associated with the lives of individuals significant in the past. Therefore, the property is not eligible under Criterion B.

Bentalou Elementary School was constructed in 1960 using austere, mid-twentieth century modern design elements popular with schools nationwide and in Maryland from the 1950s to early 1960s. The evaluated building is a reflection of this style, with its lack of ornamentation, concrete block construction with brick cladding, flat roof, simple entrances sheltered by a flat roof sometimes with brick supports, and extensive use of large windows made-up of multiple hopper and awning steel-sashes. The school's references to the International Style are minimal, with the notable absence of cantilevered features and select elevations that don't display bands of windows, both of which define the style. The building's multi-story construction is reflective of the school's urban surroundings where land was limited as compared to suburban areas. At the same time, schools of this era recognized a need for large school yards; therefore, the Bentalou property has a vast lawn, basketball court, and playground areas. The most significant change to the evaluated building is the recent replacement of letters of the school's original name with those for the new school name. This replacement, located at a prominent place on the façade of a building with otherwise minimal ornament, is a significant loss. A less obvious alteration is the addition of a new entrance, with a handicapped-accessible ramp, located at one of the rear elevations. The Bentalou Recreation Center was built in 1970, just to the north of the school, both linked by an open walkway. Another change to the property is the recent demolition of the old playground equipment, with the new one built closer to the school building. Regardless of these changes, the evaluated building is not distinctive enough to be considered a true representative of a particular type, period, or method of construction. The school does not possess high artistic values. Therefore, the Bentalou Elementary School is not eligible under Criterion C.

Based on the evaluated criteria, the Bentalou Elementary School is not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

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NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

B-5233

Bentalou Elementary School

Page 9

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Bentalou Elementary School (B-5233) 220 N. Bentalou Street Baltimore, Maryland



220 N. Bentalou Street **Baltimore, Maryland** St Pellers emetery OPLAR G Sec 1 BAONE LAFAYETHE Lutheran Hospital Harl Par FR B-5233 Boundary T Manhanay LEXINGTON Hospi Bon Secour Hospital 不 amion Square GWYNNS FALLS FREEERICA Mt Olivet Cemetery **Location Map** May 2012 2,000 Feet

Bentalou Elementary School (B-5233)

PHOTO LOG

B-5233, Bentalou Elementary School

B-5233_2012-04-24_01

-Façade and south elevation, looking northwest

B-5233_2012-04-13_02

-West and south elevations, looking northeast

B-5233 2012-04-13 03

-North and west elevations (partial); looking southeast

B-5233_2012-04-13_04

-North elevation, looking south

B-5233 2012-04-13 05

-South elevation, looking northeast

B-5233 2012-04-24 06

-Façade of Bentalou Recreation Center, looking northwest

B-5233 2012-04-13 07

-Stair leading to south elevation, looking northwest

B-5233_2012-04-13_08

-Playground located north of building, looking north

B-5233 2012-04-13 09

-Interior auditorium

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8-5233 Bentalou Elementary School Baltimore City, ND B, Roberts 4/24/12 Focade and South Elevation, looking northwest



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West and South a levations, looking northeast

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B-5233
Bentslov Elementy School
Baltimore City, MD
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South elevation looking northeast

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B- 5233 Bentalow Element Ding School Balhinge City, M)

facade of Bentalow Recreation Center locking northwest

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4/13/12 Stair leading to south elevation, looking northwest

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R-5233 Bentslov Elementary School Baltimore City, MD 3, Roberts 4/13/12 Planground located north of building, looking north 8/9



8-5233 Bentalou Elementary School Baltimore City, ND B. Roberts 4/13/12 Inserior Auditor um 9/9